

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated July 17, 2008. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to proceed with examination of the application on the merits, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

As outlined above, claims 1, 5, 8, 10, and 15 stand for consideration in this application, wherein claim 7 is being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, while claims 1, 8, and 10 are being amended. Claims 2, 6, 9, 11-14, and 16-29 stand withdrawn from consideration in this application.

Restriction Requirement

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's restriction requirement because claim 1 as amended is generic, and encompasses the scope of at least Species I-IV, VIII, IX, and XII. However, to properly respond to the Examiner's restriction requirement, Applicants hereby provisionally elect the continued prosecution of the invention identified as Species VIII, and correspondingly recited in claims 1, 5, 8, 10, and 15, wherein claim 7 is being canceled and claims 2, 6, 9, 11-14, and 16-29 are hereby withdrawn without prejudice or disclaimer. As noted above, Applicants will contend that claim 1 is generic at least with respect to Species I-IV, VIII, IX and XII. Applicants respectfully submit that the inventorship of the present application has not changed upon the election set forth above.

Applicants understand that the non-elected invention and the corresponding claims are hereby withdrawn from further consideration in this pending application. Applicants hereby reserve the right to file a divisional application on such non-elected invention.

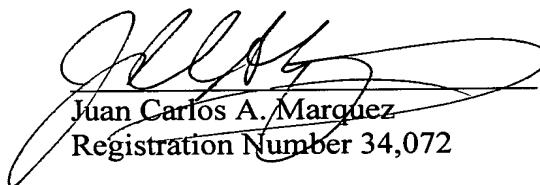
Conclusion

In light of the above Amendments and Remarks, favorable consideration of this application is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited

to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley P. Fisher
Registration Number 24,344



Juan Carlos A. Marquez
Registration Number 34,072

REED SMITH LLP
3110 Fairview Park Drive
Suite 1400
Falls Church, Virginia 22042
(703) 641-4200
August 18, 2008
SPF/JCM/YOM